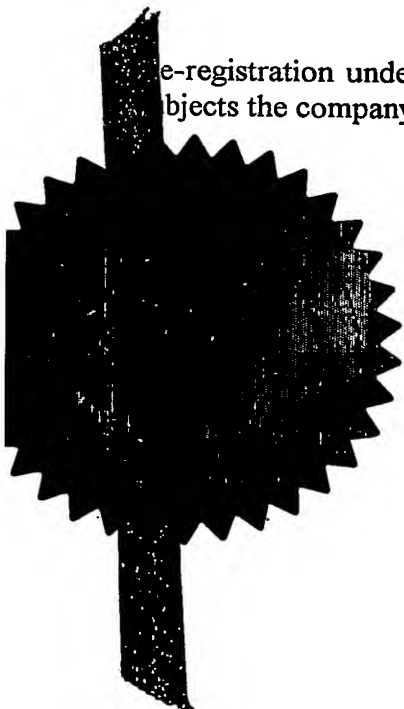## The Patent Office

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21MAY03 E809144-3 D02824
P01/7700 0.00-0311671.2

Request for grant of a patent

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1. Your Reference	P.7162 GBA
2. Patent application number *(The Patent Office will fill in this part)*	**0311671.2** **2 1 MAY 2003**
3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant *(underline all surnames)*	WATERLEAF LIMITED 1ˢᵗ Floor 28 Victoria Street Douglas ISLE OF MAN IM1 2LE, G.B. 8230831002
Patents ADP number *(if you know it)*	
If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation	ISLE OF MAN
4. Title of the invention	BETTING TERMINAL WITH LOGGING FACILITY
5. Name of your agent *(if you have one)*	MAGUIRE BOSS
"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent *(including the postcode)*	5 Crown Street St. Ives Cambridgeshire PE27 5EB, G.B.
Patents ADP number *(if you know it)*	07188725001

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8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? *(Answer 'Yes' if:*
a) *any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or*
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Description   8

Claims(s)

Abstract

Drawing(s)   1

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Statement of inventorship and right
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11.

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature   Date: 21.05.03

MAGUIRE BOSS

12. Name and daytime telephone number of
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BETTING TERMINAL WITH LOGGING FACILITY

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a betting terminal and, more particularly, to a betting terminal of a type that is commonly employed in betting shops, entertainment venues and the like. The invention extends to a method of operating a betting terminal.

BACKGROUND TO THE INVENTION

Betting terminals have become increasingly common in a number of different jurisdictions that have a regulated gambling industry.

Such a betting terminal has a player console that offers a player a menu of one or more games of chance that the player can select to play. The games of chance have outcomes that are determined by random events, usually generated by means of a random number generator implemented in software. The software random number generator may be executed locally within the player console itself or may be implemented externally in a gaming server to which the player terminal is linked by means of a communication network. In the latter topology, one or more separate player consoles may be connected to a single external gaming server by means of the communication network.

5

It is usual for the player to play any of the games of chance by means of pre-purchased credit. For reasons of simplicity and convenience it is customary for the player console to be equipped with a coin-receiving mechanism and a banknote reader that will allow the player to acquire credit in a simple manner
10 without the necessity of using prepayment tokens such as credit cards, debit cards and the like. The player console may also be equipped with a printer that prints out an encoded voucher on demand when the player desires to terminate his playing session and to cash out any credit that he may have accumulated. The voucher may be redeemed for value from an operator of the betting terminal.

15

The games of chance offered by the player console may offer jackpot prizes that can be won from time to time.

Such a player console operates in an "always on" mode, in the sense that no
20 player login or authentication is required in order to play any of the games of chance. The player console may be located at a convenient location, such as a betting shop, an entertainment venue, or the like. The gaming server to which the player console is linked may also be located with the player console, or may be located remotely therefrom. Revenue derived by an operator of the betting
25 terminal may be shared with a supplier of the terminal. Other similar commercial arrangements are possible between the operator and the supplier of the betting terminal.

Those skilled in the art will appreciate that, due to the "always on" operation of
30 the betting terminal, difficulties may arise for the supplier from time to time in verifying the operator's compliance with the commercial arrangements.

35

5 ## OBJECT OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of this invention to provide a betting terminal and a method of operating a betting terminal that will, at least partially, alleviate the abovementioned difficulties and disadvantages.

10

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with this invention there is provided a betting terminal, comprising:

15 a gaming server operable under program control to regulate the progress of any one of a number of different selectable games;

a user access facility usable by a player to select any one of the number of different games for play and to place a wager thereon, the user access facility being communicable with the gaming server by means of a communication

20 network;

a storage means communicable with the storage means by means of the communication network; and

a logging facility operable to log transaction data relating to each wager placed by the player on the user access facility and to download the logged transaction

25 data to the storage means.

Further features of the invention provide for the storage means to be remote from the user access facility, for the transaction data relating to any wager to include data relating to a size and type of the wager, an outcome of the wager, the

30 outcome of the wager being either successful or unsuccessful, a size of a prize won by the player when the wager is successful, and a corresponding identity of one of the number of different selectable games on which the wager was placed, for the logging facility to log the transaction data in a buffer capable of storing transaction data corresponding to a predetermined number of consecutive

5   wagers, and for the logging facility to download the buffered transaction data to the remote storage means when the buffer is full.

Still further features of the invention provide for a plurality of different user access facilities to be communicable with the gaming server by means of the

10   communication network, each one of the plurality of different user access facilities having a corresponding unique Identification code, and for the transaction data relating to any particular wager to also include a unique identification code of a user access facility from which the wager was placed by a player.

15

Yet further features of the invention provide for the games to be casino games, for the communication network to be an open communication network, preferably the Internet, and for the user access facility to be a computer workstation connectable to the World Wide Web of the Internet.

20

The invention extends to a method of operating a betting terminal, comprising the steps of:

operating a gaming sever under program control to regulate the progress of any one of a number of different selectable games;

25   selecting, by means of a user access facility, any one of the number of different games for play and placing a wager thereon, the user access facility being communicable with the gaming server;

logging transaction data relating to each wager placed by the player on the user access facility; and

30   downloading the logged transaction data to a storage means remote from the user access facility.

There is further provided for including in the transaction data relating to any wager, data relating to a size and type of the wager, an outcome of the wager,

35   the outcome of the wager being either successful or unsuccessful, a size of a

5   prize won by the player when the wager is successful, and a corresponding identity of one of the number of different selectable games on which the wager was placed, for logging the transaction data in a buffer capable of storing transaction data corresponding to a predetermined number of consecutive wagers, and for downloading the buffered transaction data to the remote storage

10   means when the buffer is full.

There is still further provided for linking a plurality of different user access facilities with the gaming server by means of the communication network, each one of the plurality of different user access facilities having a corresponding

15   unique identification code, and for including in the transaction data relating to any particular wager a unique identification code of a user access facility from which the wager was placed.

20   **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING**

One embodiment of the invention is described below, by way of example only, and with reference to the abovementioned drawings, in which:

25   Figure 1 is functional representation of a betting terminal according to the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

30   Referring to Figure 1, a betting terminal is indicated generally by reference numeral (1).

The betting terminal (1) includes a gaming server (2) and two user access facilities (3a and 3b) in the form of two player console each having a touch

35   screen (4), a banknote reader (5), a coin receiving mechanism (6) such as a coin

5   slot, and a thermal printer (7). Each player console also includes an Internet-
    enabled processor (8) which is in communication with the gaming server (2) by
    means of a communication network (9) that is, in this embodiment, the Internet.

    The player consoles (3a and 3b) are located remotely from the gaming server (2).
10 Each player console (3) is usable by a player to play any one of a number of
    different video games that are available for play. A menu of available games is
    presented to the player on the touch screen (4) and the player is able to select
    any one of the games in the menu for play by touching corresponding icons (not
    shown) displayed on the screen in a manner that is well known in the art.

15

    The betting terminal (1) includes a logging database (10) remote from the player
    consoles (3) and accessible by means of the communication network (9). The
    operation of the logging database (10) will be described in more detail in the
    description that follows.

20

    The Internet-enabled processor (8) is a conventional personal computer
    operating under a Windows 2000 operating system, which is well known and
    commercially available from the Microsoft Corporation of Seattle, Washington,
    USA. The Internet-enabled processor (8) and the gaming server (2) execute
25 different components of any available game that is selected for play by the
    player. Each game consists of a client process that is executed in the processor
    (8) and a server process that is executed in the gaming server (2). The client
    process of a selected game simulates the progress of the game on the touch
    screen (4), while the server process generates, upon request of the of the client
30 process, one or more random events that determine an outcome or outcomes of
    a turn of the game. The client component obtains the result of the random event
    and utilises the result to display a corresponding outcome of the game to the
    player in an intelligible manner by means of the simulation on the touch screen
    (4).

35

5   Each one of the available games is playable by the player against the consumption of credit. The player may insert one or more banknotes into the banknote reader (5) and coins into the coin slot (6) in order to procure credit to play any of the games, without the need to use payment tokens such as debit cards, credit cards or the like. A player's credit balance is displayed on the touch
10   screen (4) at all times. The player utilises his credit to place a wager on every turn of the games that he selects for play. The outcome of any wager is either an unsuccessful outcome in which the player's wager is forfeited to an operator of the betting terminal (1), or a successful outcome in which the player's wager is paid out at predetermined odds.

15

The betting terminal (1) includes a logging facility in the form of a non-volatile storage memory (11) and a logging application software program (12) that is executable in the processor (8) of each player console (3). The non-volatile storage memory (11) is a local Random Access Memory circular buffer that is
20   sized to store transaction data corresponding to a predetermined number, say 20, of consecutive wagers made by the player. The transaction data is buffered in the non-volatile storage memory (11) by the logging application software program that executes in the processor (8) of the player console (3).

25   The transaction data corresponding to any particular wager includes data relating to a size and type of the wager, an outcome of the wager, a size of a prize won by the player for a successful wager, an identification code corresponding to the selected game on which the wager was made, and an identification code corresponding to a player console from which the wager was made by the player.
30   The logging application software program (12) downloads the buffered transaction data to the logging database (10) when the local buffer (11) is full and, once download is complete, flushes the local buffer. It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the downloaded contents from the local buffers (11) of the display consoles (3) are consolidated and merged into the remote logging
35   database (10). The merged transaction data in the remote logging database (10)

5 is available for the performance of offline queries by interested parties such as a
   supplier of the betting terminal (1).

   Numerous modifications are possible to this embodiment without departing from
   the scope of the invention. In particular, the betting terminal (1) may include more
10 that two player consoles (3a and 3b) than indicated above. Alternatively, the
   betting terminal (1) may include only a single player console in which the gaming
   server (2) is integrated within the display console to provide, effectively, a
   standalone betting terminal. In this instance, the functionality of the gaming
   server (2) and the processor (8) in the display console may be consolidated,
15 necessitating only a single processor for the betting terminal (1). Further, the
   remote logging database (10) may also be integrated within the display console.
   In such a stand-alone embodiment, the use of an open communication network
   (9) such as the internet may be dispensed with, and communication between the
   gaming server (2), the processor (8) and the logging database (10) can take
20 place by means of an local communication bus or a closed network.

   The invention therefore provides a betting terminal (1) with a logging facility that
   enables the generation of a historical log file of transaction data relating to any
   wager placed by a player on a display console forming part of the betting
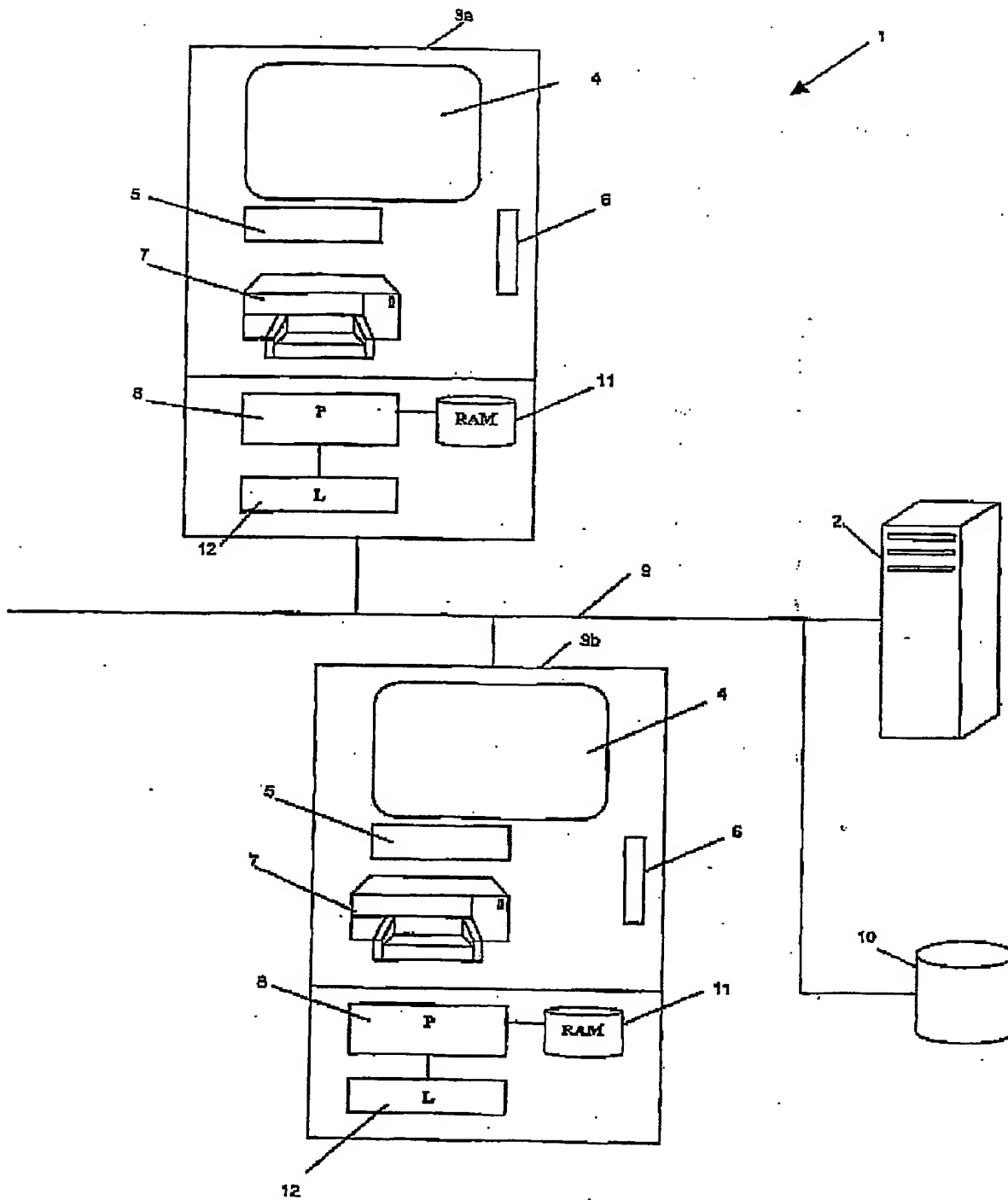25 terminal.

30

Figure 1